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Attn: FOR-OT-UT, Washington, DC 20310.

AUTHORITY

AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980

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926198
AD



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGDA (M) (12 Nov 69) FOR OT UT 693196

19 November 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 459th Signal Battalion, Period Ending 31 July 1969

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 4b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT UT, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

1 Incl
as

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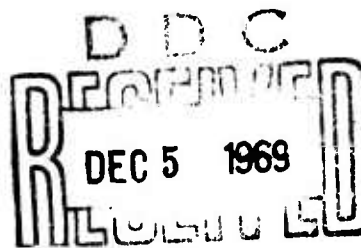
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UNCLASSIFIED REPORT

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ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR FORCE DEVELOPMENT
(ARMY) ATTN FOR OT UT, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 459TH SIGNAL BATTALION (CA)
APO 96240

SCCPV-NG-NT-OP

12 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 459th Signal Battalion (CA) for period
ending 31 July 1969 (RCS CSFOR-65) (R1)

CINCUSARPAC, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96558
Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade, ATTN: SCCPV-OP, APO 96384
Commanding General, USASTRATCOM-PAC, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, APO 96557
Commanding General, USARV, ATTN: AVHGC-DST, APO 96384
Commanding Officer, 21st Signal Group, ATTN: SCCPV-NG-OPT, APO 96240

1. Section 1. Operations: Significant Activities

a. General

(1) Command Changes:

(a) CPT Charles W. Russo replaced 1LT Dwight R. Maikkula as Company
Commander of B Company on 3 June 1969.

(b) 1LT Dennis M. Lavery replaced 1LT Ralph Hamilton as Company
Commander of Headquarters Company on 4 June 1969.

(c) CPT Arthur R. Lazenby replaced CPT Jerry L. Johnson as Company
Commander of A Company on 16 June 1969.

(2) Administrative Problems: NONE

(3) Operations:

(a) Unit organization structure included as inclosure #1.

(b) Ninety-two operational days are covered for this reporting period.

(4) Personnel: (see inclosure #2, Personnel Gains-Losses)

(5) Logistics:

(a) During the period 3 May to 2 August the Battalion deadline rate
decreased from 17.1% to 5.0%.

(b) Construction and operation of a new Category II Electronics
Maintenance Shop has greatly increased the effectiveness of the Battalion
Maintenance program.

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Inclosure

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(c) The 228th Sig Co has a "modified" AN/MTC-1. It contains a SB-1398/GTA-14, not a SB-249A/TCC. Therefore the unit has not been successful in obtaining repair items for their switchboard. The unit is presently attempting to acquire a SB-249 to replace the SB-1398.

(c) Chronology:

(1) 8 May 1969: The Signal Center Platoon of A Company combined its Corps Area System control with VHF Control. System supervision is now more efficient.

(2) 9 June 69: Full operation of the AN/GRC-26 radio at the ARVN NCO academy has brought the MACV advisors at North Nha Trang into reliable and rapid contact with MACV Headquarters.

(3) 9 June 69: The BBT-16 system was activated between LEM and Hon Tre Island to upgrade the Corps Area Communications system in II CTZ.

(4) 10 June 69: The 578th Sig Co installed a 100 pair cable up to the 619 AF Det #11 on Hon Tre Island, strengthening local telephone communication from the Island.

(5) 27 June 69: A new perimeter bunker for Company B was completed, resulting in improved perimeter defense.

(6) 27 June 69: A SB-675 Patch Panel was integrated into the 228th Sig Co's communications on Hon Tre Island in order to provide systems control.

(7) 30 June 69: The 459th Sig Bn along with other units in Camp McDermott, has assumed a main part of the defense that had been provided by the Civilian Irregular Defense Guard. The Battalion provided thirty men on a full time basis. This change has been deemed necessary due to a lack of funds for FY70.

(8) 7 July 69: The last circuit was cutover from the Nha Trang Long Distance SWBD to the Tandem Switch. Direct long distance dialing is now available for all Nha Trang Class A Subscribers.

(9) 7 July 69: All cables appearing on the frame at Technical Control were grounded to the frame. This significantly reduced voltage and power hums.

(10) 14 July 69: Activation of the Nha Trang AUTOSEVOCOM second has been completed.

(11) 15 July 69: Daily study classes have been organized at Co B to assist personnel preparing for the GED examination. Preliminary tests are given to aid personnel in discovering weak areas prior to taking the GED.

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(12) 31 July 69: The spiral four cable and WD1/TT field wire installed at the 5th Special Forces were replaced by 200pr, 50pr and 25pr cables, greatly improving the unit's communication effectiveness. Company A's Cable Platoon assisted the 5th Special Forces with the installation.

2. Section 2. Lessons Learned: Commanders Observations, Evaluations, Recommendations.

a. Personnel: NONE

b. Operations:

(1) Air Conditioner Performance

(a) OBSERVATION: The Nha Trang VHF Site had found it's equipment over heating due to inefficient air conditioner performance.

(b) EVALUATION: It was learned that the heating problem resulted from inadequate circulation of cool air through the vans. This was caused by placing the inlet and exhaust vents too close together, thus preventing air flow across the equipment.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Placing the vents on opposite sides of the van results in a substantial temperature decrease of 8 - 10°F.

(2) Terminal Box Installation

(a) OBSERVATION: The installation of terminal boxes close to the ground has resulted in damage to the terminals and disruption of communications.

(b) EVALUATION: Damage occurs most often during the monsoon season when water and mud flow into the boxes. The chance of damage is increased when dirt is piled around the boxes during excavation work.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Possible water damage should be considered before installing pedestal terminals.

(3) LD Dial In Circuits

(a) OBSERVATION: The Nha Trang Long Distance Switchboard has had circuit outages on dial in circuits due to blown fuses.

(b) EVALUATION: The 40 dial in circuits at the LD had been wired in groups of ten. During busy periods this configuration caused an overload resulting in blown fuses. The dial in circuits are now wired into groups of five. Since they have been rewired, there have been no circuit outages due to blown fuses.

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(c) RECOMMENDATION: Reviewing dial in grouping at other LD Boards should prevent blown fuse circuit outages.

(4) Cleaning TD Contacts

(a) OBSERVATION: The Nha Trang Minor Relay has had difficulty in cleaning contacts on FGC-25's used on Mode V circuits.

(b) EVALUATION: Clean TD contacts are of critical importance in the operation of reliable Mode V circuits. TD contacts had been cleaned with a soft cloth and solvent solution. This method has been inadequate since the soft cloth left lint on the contacts.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: The substitution of surgical gauze for cloth has proven to be a superior means of keeping the contacts clean. This method will reduce the Mode V reject rate when the lint problem exists.

(5) Defective Dipoles

(a) OBSERVATION: Several VHF systems have experienced increased frequency interference and decreased signal/noise ratios.

(b) EVALUATION: Antenna dipoles were found to be defective. Replacement increased the receive level six micro-amps. Defective antenna dipoles are thought to contribute to the severity of frequency interference in some cases.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: If the above problems exist it is recommended to check for defective dipoles.

(6) Power Failure

(a) OBSERVATION: A 45KW, 400 cycle generator at HTR failed on several occasions due to the circuit breaker tripping off.

(b) EVALUATION: Investigations revealed that tightening the nuts and bolts behind the power panel would help eliminate the problem.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Generators should be checked for loose bolts.

SCCFV-HQ-WT-OP

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 459th Signal Battalion (CA) for period
ending 31 July 1969 (REC CSFOR-65) (R1)

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- c. Training: NONE
- d. Intelligence: NONE
- e. Logistics: NONE
- f. Organization: NONE
- g. Other: NONE

2 Incl
as
Incl 2 wd HQ, DA


James N. Chapman
JAMES N. CHAPMAN
LTC, SigC
Commanding

SCCPV-MG-CIT (12 Aug 69) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 459th Signal Battalion (CA) for
Period Ending 31 July 1969, (ACS GSF A-65) (RI)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 21ST SIGNAL GROUP, AFM 96240 27 August 1969

ATTN: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded IAW 1st Signal Brigade Regulation 1-19.
2. This headquarters has reviewed the basic report and concurs with the information and comments contained therein.
3. This headquarters is unable to determine the significance of the figures shown in Inclosure 2 since no conclusions are drawn therefrom. Gains and losses for any M/S do not necessarily indicate an overage or shortage in that M/S.


THOMAS C. HUSERAVE
Colonel, SigC
Commanding

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SCCPV-OP-SD (12 Aug 69) 2nd Ind

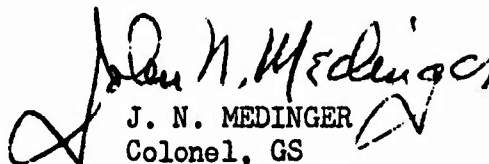
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 459th Signal Battalion (CA) for
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

DA, HQ, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM), APO 96384 8 September 1969

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO 96375

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with USARV Regulation 525-15.
2. This headquarters has reviewed the report and concurs in it as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


J. N. MEDINGER
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

CF:

Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications Command,
ATTN: DCSOPS, SCC-OPS-RT, Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613
Commanding Officer, 21st Signal Group, APO 96240
Commanding Officer, 459th Signal Battalion, APO 96240

AVHGC-DST (12 Aug 69) 3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 459th Signal Battalion (CA) for Period Ending
31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

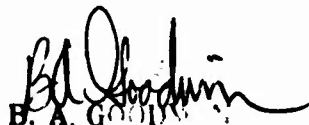
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 2

THRU: Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications Command-
Pacific, APO 96557

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the
quarterly period ending 31 July 1969 from Headquarters, 459th Signal Battalion
(CA) and concurs with the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



B. A. GOODMAN

CPT, USA

Assistant to Command General

Cy furn:
459th Sig Bn
1st Sig Bde

SCCP-OP (12 Aug 69) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 459th Signal Battalion (CA) for
Period Ending 31 July 1969 (RCS CSFOR-65) (R1)

Headquarters, U. S. Army Strategic Communications Command-Pacific
APO San Francisco 96557 0 3 OCT 1969

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN:
GPOP-DT, APO 96558

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with AR 525-15.
2. This headquarters has reviewed and concurs with subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

FRANK C. MAHIN
COL, GS
Chief of Staff

GPOP-DT (12 Aug 69) 5th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 459th Signal Battalion (CA) for
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS-CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 8 OCT 69

THRU: Commanding General, US Army Strategic Communications Command,
Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of
the Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

CF:
DA, ACSFOR
CG, USASTRATCOM-PAC

C. L. Shortt
C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

SCC-PO-CERA (12 Aug 69) 6th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 459th Signal Battalion (CA) for Period
Ending 31 Jul 69, (RCS CSFOR-65) (R1)

Headquarters, US Army Strategic Communications Command, Fort Huachuca,
Arizona 85613 20 OCT 1969

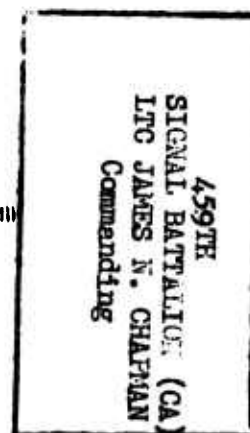
TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of
the Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This Headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Robert A. Mall
ROBERT A. MALL
Captain, AGC
Asst Adj Gen

CF:
CG, USASTRATCOM-PAC
HQ, US Army-Pacific



INCLOSURE #1

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ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURAL CHART
459TH SIGNAL BN.
correct as of 31 Jul 69

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Security Classification

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